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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON U.S.-RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 25-27

: (A) SEOUL 2403 (DTG 240910Z MAR 78)

KOREAGATE: END OF PTS' SENATE TESTIMONY IS MENTIONED, ONG WITH PARK'S REPORTED DESIRE TO RETURN TO SEOUL BEFORE BEGINNING OPEN TESTIMONY BEFORE HEC IN APRIL. SEOUL SINMUN CARRIED LONG GOSSIP PIECE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO PARK, PRAISING HIS DIGNITY, COMPOSURE, ETC. HANKUK ILBO'S D.C. CORRESPONDENT COMPARES PTS CASE TO SEVENTH ROUND OF A TEN-ROUND BOXING MATCH: "BOTH BOXERS ARE EXHAUSTED; LITTLE PROSPECT NOW FOR A KAYO." IN SIMILAR VEIN, CHOSUN ILBO'S D.C. REPORTER CALLS KIM HANJO TRIAL "BORING". ALL PAPERS EXCERPT NYT FEATURE SAYING THAT KOREAGATE WILL PROBABLY NOT AFFECT THE NOVEMBER CONG. ELECTIONS; "THE CURTAIN IS COMING DOWN ON KOREAGATE".

2. ROGERS INTERVIEW: ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGE, SOME HEAD-
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LINE, ARMY C OF S GEN. ROGERS' 3/27 PRESS CONFERENCE, NOTING

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PARTICULARLY ROGERS' STATEMENTS THAT CHAPPARAL, BUT NOT NUCLEAR-CAPABLE LANCE, MISSILES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ROKF, AS WILL "ALL 2ND DIV. EQUIPMENT EXCEPT M60 TANKS". ROGERS AVERS THAT THE ENTIRE TROOP WITHDRAWAL, AS WELL AS ITS TIMETABLE, CONSTITUTES "AN IRREVERSIBLE DECISION."

3. US-ROK RELATIONS: MOST PAPERS CARRY WALL ST. JOURNAL STORY ON THE THEME THAT THE BIG-BROTHER ERA IS ENDING. NATIONALISTIC CHUNGANG ILBO, IN LONG EDITORIAL, FINDS GREVOUS FAULT WITH "U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S EUROPE-FIRST POLICY", SEEING IN IT AN INVITATION TO SOVIET AGGRESSION IN EAST ASIA WHICH WILL IN TURN DESTABLIZE THE SITUATION EVERYWHERE... CLEARLY THE KEY TO WORLD PEACE LIES IN IMPROVED ROK-US RELATIONS.

4. MANSFIELD INTERVIEW: TONG-A-ILBO AND SHIN-A-ILBO, IN FOLLOWUP ANALYSES OF AMB. MANSFIELD'S INTERVIEW (REFTEL, PARA. 1), PERCEIVE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS AND THEIR VIEW OF U.S. POLICY, BUT SOUND GENERALLY POSITIVE AND PLEASED AT AMBASSADOR'S REASSURANCES.

5. KOREAN-AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRY STORY, ATTRIBUTED TO "INFORMED DOS SOURCE", THAT DEP. ASST. SECY. GLEYSTEEN IS TO REPLACE AMB. SNEIDER THIS SUMMER. NO SIDEBARS OR CORROBORATING MATERIAL OF ANY KIND, HOWEVER. SNEIDER

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